

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE
WASHINGTON, DC

FSIS NOTICE

17-06

3/22/06

CLARIFICATION REGARDING SQUAB INSPECTION

FSIS has received a question as to whether squabs may be shipped with the head remaining (but not the feet) on the carcass and still be eligible to bear the mark of inspection. This notice addresses that question and provides instructions to inspection program personnel.

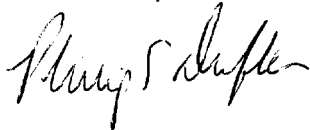
A "squab" is a young pigeon from one to about thirty days of age. Effective April 26, 2001, FSIS began mandatory inspection services at establishments processing squabs pursuant to the Poultry Products Inspection Act. Inspection under the regulations is required at every establishment as described in 9 CFR 381.6.

In response to the question received, squabs may be considered wholesome, not adulterated, and eligible to receive the mark of inspection when shipped with the head remaining attached to the carcass provided that:

- A. the carcass is satisfactorily bled;
- B. the carcass is eviscerated including the crop;
- C. the establishment meets all parts of FSIS regulations (9 CFR part 381) that apply to poultry; and
- D. the establishment meets requirements of 9 CFR Parts 416 and 417.

Inspection program personnel should verify that squabs with the head remaining attached to the carcass are **not** labeled ready-to-cook since they do not meet the regulatory definition of ready-to-cook squab (9 CFR 381.1). Also, the labeling should include a proper descriptive name, (e.g., "squabs with head attached") because the carcass is shipped with the head attached (9 CFR 381.117).

Direct questions to the Technical Service Center at 1-800-233-3935.



Assistant Administrator

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